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9 April 1948

For the Record

Chief Engineer, FBIB

Meeting in Mr. Houston's office re acquisition of land for
Station.

A meeting was held in the General Counsel's office at 1400 on
April 7, 1948, to discuss first phases of a plan to acquire the
tracts of land for FBIB's East Coast Monitoring station.
Houston and attended this meet-
ing.

The average of three recent fair price appraisals on the 30 acre
tract was \$12,216. The owner bought this tract for \$8,000 and has
erected on the land a hanger the value of which is estimated not to exceed
\$2000. It was agreed that CIA will offer the owner \$11,500 to \$12,500 for
this tract.

The average recent fair price appraisal on the 66 acre
was \$23,265. The owner bought this tract 8 months ago for \$9000. CIA
will offer the owner \$23,000 to \$25,000 for this tract.

Telegrams were drafted to the owners, in substance, calling them in
to attend meetings on Monday, April 12, 1948 to discuss the purchase of
their land by the U. S. Government. The owners were to acknowledge
receipt of the telegrams and discuss hours of meeting by telephone.

felt that if normal purchasing procedure couldn't be follow-
ed and condemnation proceedings were necessary, the land could be obtained
in 60 days or less - perhaps even faster than by normal purchase. Mr.
Houston felt this might be true if the Attorney General's office co-oper-
ated with the project.

It was learned that the Comptroller General had ruled that funds
transferred by CIA to the Army Engineers for construction of a project were
legally obligated and that the Engineers could then take up to two years to
actually spend all of the funds thus transferred.

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REASON